

CLAIMS

1. A method of communication of patient data acquired from a patient; said method including arranging a predetermined communications protocol whereby patient data is communicable from a patient location to an analysis location.

2. The method of Claim 1 implemented by a system which includes at least the following components:

- (a) patient data acquisition apparatus
- (b) patient data transmission apparatus
- (c) patient data reception apparatus
- (d) patient data storage and analysis apparatus.

3. The method of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said storage and analysis apparatus is implemented on a personal computer.

4. The method of Claim 1 or 2 or 3 wherein said patient data transmission apparatus additionally includes supplementary data insertion means.

5. The method of any previous claim wherein a unique identifier is given to each said patient data acquisition apparatus.

6. The method of any previous claim wherein a unique identifier is given to each said patient data storage and analysis apparatus.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said unique identifier is embedded in a software portion comprising part of said patient data storage and analysis apparatus.

8. The method of any previous claim wherein said patient data storage and analysis apparatus includes a personal

computer arranged to execute a patient data storage and analysis program.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said patient data storage and analysis program includes customisable/user manipulable data base elements.

10. The method of Claim 4 wherein said patient data is encoded for transmission in a first format whilst said supplementary data is encoded for transmission in a second format.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said supplementary data comprises patient data and/or patient data acquisition apparatus identification data.

12. A system for communication of patient data from a patient location to a remote storage and analysis location; said system including means for transmitting said patient data on a predetermined signal encoded according to a predetermined protocol whereby said patient data is communicable from said patient location to said analysis location.

13. The system of Claim 12 wherein said predetermined signal comprises a modulated audio tone.

14. The system of Claim 13 wherein said modulated audio tone is a frequency modulated (FM) audio tone.

15. The system of Claim 13 or 14 wherein said modulated audio tone has a centre frequency between 1,000 and 3,000 Hertz.

16. The system of Claim 15 wherein said centre frequency is approximately 1,900 Hertz.

17. The system of any one of Claims 14-16 wherein said tone is frequency modulated at a rate of 100 Hertz per millivolt.

18. The system of any one of Claims 12-17 wherein said predetermined protocol comprises direct modulation of an analogue wave form representing said patient data which is preceded by and recognised by a zero signal of predetermined duration.

19. The system of Claim 12 wherein said predetermined signal includes said patient data and supplementary data; said supplementary data comprising data pertaining to the circumstances of measurement of said clinical data.

20. The system of Claim 19 wherein said supplementary data is digitally encoded in a wave form suitable for frequency modulation of a carrier tone in the audio range.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein said predetermined protocol includes a series of synchronisation pulses which immediately precede and signal the presence of a signal containing said supplementary data.

22. The system of any one of claims 12 to 21 wherein said patient data is transmitted as digitised packets.

23. The system of any one of claims 12 to 22 further including a server computer adapted to receive said digitised packets of patient data.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said server computer is adapted to transmit program data and patient data in the form of digitised packets to a remote computer whereby said

remote computer can execute said program data in order to display and/or interpret said patient data.

25. The system of any one of claims 22 to 24 wherein patient data is forwarded in preselected component parts and then stored for ^{no assembly} reasonably at said remote location for contiguous playback after reassembly.

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